

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

communicating ~~by a parent using a client device~~ a parental identity to an authentication server for verification;

receiving a relationship ticket from the authentication server when after the parental identity has been successfully verified, wherein the relationship ticket received from the authentication server is encrypted so that the relationship ticket cannot be decrypted by ~~[[a]]~~ the client device which receives the relationship ticket, and wherein the relationship ticket includes the parental identity and identifies a child who's access to a Web server is to be limited;

generating ~~by the parent using the client device~~ a request to establish a selected permission level for the child which will limit the child's access to the Web server;

sending ~~by the parent using the client device~~ the request and the relationship ticket to the Web server ~~for~~ for:

decryption of the relationship ticket, ~~ticket~~;

performing an integrity check of the relationship ticket using a message authentication code contained within the relationship ticket;

authentication of the parental identity, wherein the Web server authenticates the parental identity with the authentication server using the contents of the relationship ticket; and

establishment of the selected permission level for the child; and

receiving ~~by the parent using the client device~~ a success code from the Web server if the selected permission level is established for the child.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further including receiving a failure notification from the Web server if the selected permission level is not established.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein sending the request to the Web server includes using an untrusted connection with the Web server.

4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the request to the Web server is sent using an unsecure connection with the Web server.

5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the relationship ticket is encrypted by the authentication server.

6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected permission level is established if the relationship ticket is authenticated.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the authentication server is a .NET Passport server.

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein selecting a permission level associated with a child's usage of a web site is performed by a parent of the child.

12. (Currently Amended) One or more computer storage media ~~computer-readable memories including at least one tangible component, and~~ containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

communicating ~~[[a]]~~by an employer using a client device~~--an~~ employer identity to an authentication server for verification;

receiving a relationship ticket from the authentication server ~~when~~ after the employer identity has been successfully verified, wherein the relationship ticket received from the authentication server is encrypted so that the relationship ticket cannot be decrypted by a client device which receives the relationship ticket, and wherein the relationship ticket includes the employer identity and identifies an employee who's access to a Web server is to be limited;

generating a request to establish a selected permission level for the employee which will limit the employee's access to the Web server;

~~sending--by the client device--~~ the request and the relationship ticket to the Web server for decryption of the relationship ticket, authentication of the employer identity, and establishment of the selected permission level for the employee; and

~~receiving--by the client device--~~ a success code from the Web server if the selected permission level is established for the employee.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein the relationship ticket is encrypted by the authentication server.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein the relationship ticket is encrypted by the authentication server, and wherein the relationship ticket is decrypted by the Web server.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) One or more computer storage media ~~computer-readable memories including at least one tangible component, and~~ containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 13.

19-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) One or more computer storage media ~~computer-readable memories including at least one tangible component,~~ and having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

select ~~by a manager's client device~~ a permission level associated with an associate's access to a Web server;

obtain ~~by the manager's client device~~ a relationship ticket from an authentication server, wherein the relationship ticket obtained from the authentication server is encrypted and includes information regarding a manager's identity and information regarding an identity of an associate who's access to the Web server is to be limited;

generate a request to establish a selected permission level for the associate which will limit the associate's access to the Web server;

send ~~by the manager's client device~~ the request and the relationship ticket to the Web server via an unsecure communication link for decryption of the relationship ticket, authentication of the manager's identity, and establishment of the selected permission level for the associate; and

receive ~~by the manager's client device~~ a success code from the Web server if the requested permission level is established for the associate.

29. (Currently Amended) One or more ~~computer-readable~~ computer storage media as recited in claim 28 wherein the relationship ticket is encrypted by the authentication server and decrypted by the Web server.

30-31. (Canceled)